

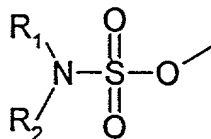
**ABSTRACT**

**STEROID SULPHATASE INHIBITORS**

5 A method of inhibiting steroid sulphatase activity in a subject in need of same is described.

The method comprises administering to said subject a steroid sulphatase inhibiting amount of a ring system compound; which ring system compound comprises a ring to which is attached a sulphamate group of the formula

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wherein each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl, or together represent alkylene optionally containing one or more hetero atoms or groups in the alkylene chain; and wherein said compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase activity (E.C.3.1.6.2); and if the sulphamate group of said compound is replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound and incubated with a steroid sulphatase enzyme (E.C.3.1.6.2) at a pH 7.4 and 37°C it would provide a  $K_m$  value of less than 50  $\mu M$ .

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